

News & Success Stories from Around the Region

January 2019 - Happy New Year!



Two local leaders from our region tapped by Governor Jared Polis to lead statewide agencies

this story created with excerpts from [Vail Daily article 1/9/19](#) by Pam Boyd and [Summit Daily article 1/9/19](#) by Deepan Dutta

Newly-elected Governor Jared Polis has tapped two elected officials from the NWCCOG region to lead state agencies. **Jill Ryan, Eagle County Commissioner** has been appointed to serve as Executive Director for the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. **Dan Gibbs, Summit County Commissioner**, has been named Executive Director of the Department of Natural Resources.

Ryan is a two-term Eagle County Commissioner and a public health professional with more than two decades of experience in the field. She was first elected Eagle County Commissioner in 2012 and re-elected in 2016. Ryan is the former director of both health planning and the Office of Health Disparities at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. She managed Eagle County's Public Health Agency from 2004-2009, before starting her own consulting firm.



Jill Ryan, the newly appointed Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment

In his inaugural speech Tuesday, Governor Polis declared that affordable health care is one of his top priorities. "We get to work building a health care system that ensures families don't have to choose between losing their homes and losing their health care," Polis said. Ryan said that her tenure as an Eagle County Commissioner has given her an intimate understanding of the health care challenges in rural parts of the state.

Summit County Commissioner Dan Gibbs has been named Executive Director of the Department of Natural Resources. Gibbs has been a Summit County commissioner since 2010. Prior to his tenure as a commissioner, Dan represented Summit County in the Colorado House of Representatives and in the State Senate. The Department of Natural Resources oversees the Colorado Avalanche Information Center; the Division of Forestry; the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety; the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission; Colorado Parks and Wildlife; the State Land Board; the Colorado Water Conservation Board; and the Division of Water Resources.



Dan Gibbs, the newly-appointed Executive Director of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources

Gibbs said that he plans to implement the governor's vision for protecting and enhancing the state's natural resources. As a certified wildland firefighter who has guided the county's effective fire mitigation efforts, Gibbs plans to make wildfire mitigation a priority at the state level, along with other duties vested in a position that oversees a huge chunk of the state's economy and cultural heritage.

Ryan and Gibbs, both democrats, upon confirmation will vacate their seats as commissioners and an interim successor will be chosen per a state-mandated process. NWCCOG would like to say CONGRATULATIONS to both Jill and Dan....we are thrilled to have two leaders from the NWCCOG

Vail Resorts Announces \$23 million in grants in Summit County

[Summit Daily News, Deepan Dutta, 12/20/18](#)

The Vail Resorts EpicPromise foundation announced the recipients of its 2018-19 community grants cycle in Summit County. Forty-nine local nonprofit organizations received a combined \$2.3 million in cash and in-kind product support aimed at supporting the issues that matter most in and around the county. The Summit Community Care Clinic was chosen as the winner by Breck and Keystone employees for the EpicPromise Impact award, giving the clinic a boost to its grant. "These grant recipients choose to use their skills and resources to make a difference in the lives of Summit County residents," said John Buhler, vice president and chief operating officer of Breckenridge Ski Resort in a press release. "From providing affordable childcare, offering equitable access to recreation opportunities and working to improve mental health services, we are truly grateful to be able to partner with these recipients to address some of the most pressing issues facing Summit County."

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